

PERSECUTION, *the Christian's Lot.*

No 10

GL A PN

10

SERMON,

Preached on MONDAY Afternoon.

SEPTEMBER 14th, 1741.

IN THE

High-Church-Yard

OF

GLASGOW,

Upon 2. TIM, *iii. 12.*

By the REVEREND

Mr. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

taken from his own Mouth, and published at the earnest Desire of many of the Hearers.

GLASGOW,

Printed: And sold in the Gallowgate Printing-house,
and by Robert Smith at the Gilt Bible, opposite to
Gibson's Land, Salt-mercat. 1741.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The following Sermons of the Reverend Mr. GEORGE WHITEFIELD, preached in the High-Church-Yard, are to be sold by ROBERT SMITH at the Gilt-Bible, Salt-Mercat.

I. The Prodigal Son, *preached Friday Afternoon, upon Luke xv. from the 11th Verse to the End.*

II. The Duty of a Gospel-Minister, *preached Saturday forenoon, upon Luke iv. 18, 19.*

III. Saul's Conversion, *preached Saturday Afternoon, upon Acts ix.*

IV. The Method of Grace, *preached Sabbath Morning, upon Jer. iv. 14.*

V. The Kingdom of God, *preached Sabbath Evening, upon Rom. xiv. 17.*

VI. The Believers golden Chain, *preached Tuesday Afternoon, upon 1 Cor. i. 30.*

There is in the Press, and speedily will be published, The Lord our Righteousness, preached on Friday Forenoon in the High-Church-Yard of Glasgow. By the Reverend Mr. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.



PERSECUTION, *the Christian's Lot.*

A

S E R M O N.

2. TIM, iii. 12.

*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ
Jesus, shall suffer Persecution.*

IF we read the Gospel with a single Eye, we shall find that *Jesus Christ* oftentimes inculcates upon his Disciples and Followers the Doctrine of the Cross. They dreamed of a temporal Kingdom, *Jesus Christ* knew very well that it is natural to us to seek great Things for ourselves, and therefore not only in his publick, but especially in his private Discourses, often bids them expect and prepare for Sufferings; often warned them that his Kingdom was not of this World, and that they must expect Persecution if they would be the true Followers of the Lamb of God. Therefore among the many Exhortations that the Apostle gives *Timothy* in this Chapter out of which the Text is taken, he forewarns him of the great Opposition

and many Sufferings he must expect to undergo, if he would be faithful to that Lord whose Gospel he preached. In the Beginning of this Chapter he tells him, *Know also, that in the last Days perilous Times will come. And why? Men will be lovers of themselves, covetous, Boasters, proud, blasphemous, disobedient to Parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural Affection, Truce-breakers, false Accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, Lovers of Pleasures more than Lovers of God, having a Form of Godliness, but denying the Power thereof.* I believe if we search the Scriptures, we shall find, that formal People, Church Members that have not a real Love of God in their Heart, have been the greatest Enemies to the Disciples of Jesus Christ. From such turn thou away. Timothy was to expect Opposition, says he in the 8th Verse, *Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the Truth, Men of corrupt Minds reprobate concerning the Faith.* But that Timothy might not be too much discouraged, and think they would get the Advantage of him, says he, *they shall proceed no further.* God has his Enemies in his Hand; for their Folly shall be manifest to all Men, as theirs was. And then the Apostle comes more particularly by his Example

to lay before him what he himself had suffered. *But thou hast fully known my Doctrine, Manner of Life, Purpose, Faith, Long-suffering, Charity Patience, Persecution.* And to comfort Timothy, *Out of them all the Lord delivered me.* And lest Timothy should say, This is an extraordinary Case, ye must expect it because ye are Ministers and Apostles, but I and others may think to evade Persecution; he goes on in the 12th Verse *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer Persecution.* Do not think that my Case is extraordinary, to endure Persecution; I tell thee, *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer Persecution,* till Time be no more, till Christ Jesus shall come. This is a plain Assertion laid down by a Man, that no doubt wrote by the Finger of the Holy Ghost; and yet I believe it is scarce believed by most. Many have a Form of Godliness, but deny the Power of it, they do not feel the Power of God in their Hearts, they are divided betwixt God and the World, they think People may be Christians without suffering Persecution. I shall therefore think it not be ill imploying my Time, if I endeavour in my following Discourse to consider this Apostle's Assertion in the Text. And *First*, I shall endeavour to show you what it is to live godly in Ch

Jesus. 2dly. I shall endeavour to show you what I understand by the Word *Persecution*. 3dly, I shall endeavour to prove that *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer Persecution*. And Lastly, By way of Conclusion, I shall endeavour to speak to several Sorts that may be at this Time here.

First, I will endeavour to show what it is to *live godly in Christ Jesus*. There is a great Difference between living godly and formally in *Christ Jesus*, or living morally in *Christ Jesus*. We may be outwardly Members of his Visible Church, we may go to Church, we may go to the Sacrament, and we may not be truly and properly in Christ. *To live godly in Christ Jesus*, is not only to be a Member of his Visible Church, but to be a real Member of his Invisible Church, to be Partaker of a Divine Nature, to have a new Nature, to have a Divine Life, a Life carried on by the invisible Realities of another World. *To live godly in Christ Jesus* includes habitual Holiness, not only now and then to be holy in a pang of Devotion; but to live so as to make God's Will, not our own, the Measure of our Actions; so that whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, we do all, not to please ourselves, but to please God; we must do all to the
 Glory

Glory of God, his Will and not our own must be the Spring from which all our Actions proceed. *To live godly in Christ Jesus* implies that we live a Life of Faith in Christ Jesus, so that we can say, *The Life which I now live is by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* It is to have a Regard to all God's Commandments, *to deny all Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present World; to be righteous before God, walking in all the Commandments and Ordinances of the Lord blameless.* This must become the habitual Temper of the Soul. Again, *To live godly* is to have a due Regard to all relative Duties, *to do justly, love Mercy and walk humbly before our God.* It is to walk daily as in God's Sight. Devotion is an habitual Temper of Heart, 'tis a Temper of Soul, whereby the Soul acts as if God were directly looking to it. This is to live godly in Christ Jesus. The great Question is whether we do live godly in Christ Jesus, or whether we are dead to God, A great many do not live godly, they only live formally, they never experience the Power of Religion upon their Heart, therefore the Devil lets them alone and does not disturb them. But to live godly is quite another Thing. It implies that the Man

must be a new Creature, and that God must be all in all.

I am next to explain what we are to understand by *Persecution*. It is proper to explain that, before I come to the last part of the Text, *that all that will live godly must suffer Persecution*.

And first, Persecution signifies Hatred at a Man in order to hurt him for some Good. The common Acceptation of the Word, the common *Idea* of it is, Hatred at a Man so as to hurt him upon Account of some Mark of the Image of God we find stamped upon his Soul. Persecution is therefore sealed in the Heart, Persecution begins here, it arises from that Enmity which all natural Men have to God. We therefore find that *Cain* hated his Brother *Abel*; therefore we find that *Joseph's* Brethren hated him, and said, *Here comes the Dreamer*. And Jesus Christ among the different Kinds of Persecution his Disciples were to meet with, he tells them, *They should be hated of all Men for his Name's sake*. Thus the Scribes and Pharisees hated Jesus Christ in their Heart, before they laid hold of him by the Hand. Thus in the great Day Men will be judged and condemned as Persecutors. A great many People have got a ill Will at Christ and good Men, they hate the Gospel preaching and Truths, and the

the Disciples of Jesus Christ in their Heart. But because they do not love to be called Persecuters, Self-love makes them hide their Resentment against God, had they Power equal to their Will, the Blood of God's Children would run along. This is the first Degree of Persecution, Hatred of good People in our Heart.

But then, the Next Kind of Persecution is that of the Tongue, *for out of the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth speaketh.* We find that Christ says, *Rejoyce and be exceeding glad when Men persecute you; and speak all Manner of Evil against you falsely for my Name's Sake.* We find that Mocking in the Old Testament is called Persecution in the New. *As it was formerly, so it is now, he that was born after the Flesh, persecuted him that was born after the Spirit.* Here the Apostle alludes to Ishmael's mocking Isaac. A great many may think it no Degree of Persecution, to speak Evil of God's People: But my dear Friends, the Apostle in his Epistle to the *Hebrews*, when he is giving us a large Catalogue of the Sufferings of the Old Testament Saints, he mentions *cruel Mockings* as well as *Scourgings*. And perhaps the Scourge of the Tongue to a generous Mind, is a great deal worse than to make long Furrows

B.

upo

upon their Back with Cords. A great many People can send out Fire-brands, Arrows and Death, and yet at the same Time say they are in Sport. But what shall be done to you, O ye false Tongues? fiery Coals will God give you, that speak Evil of his Children, that are never better pleased than when ye are propagating an ill Report against them, and get others to join you. Evil Speaking then is one Degree of Persecution, and a very hainous Degree of it in the Sight of God.

But further, Persecution not only proceeds from the Tongue; but it often breaks out into Action. But, is it possible for me to describe the various Shapes Persecution has appeared in, in the world? Sometimes it's described by separating from their Company, *They will separate you from their Company.* Sometimes by putting them out of the Synagogue, *They shall cast you out of the Synagogue.* Sometimes by Threatnings, *Saul breathed out Threatnings against the Disciples of the Lord.* I may refer you to Church History, and there ye will find what Persecutions have been, Inquisitions, Murders, and Massacres of all Kinds have been brought upon the poor Disciples of Jesus Christ. And which is worst of all, Zeal for God and his Honour has frequently been

been pretended to be the Cause of all this Blood: I will not indeed say, that all that will live godly in Christ Jesus will certainly suffer for the Lord Jesus, all of you will not suffer the last Degree of Persecution, I mean that many of you will die in your Bed, and perhaps some of you may die at a Stake. But however, this I will affirm, All Christians that will live godly in Christ Jesus, are to carry the Spirit of Martyrdom about with them wheresoever they go. And tho' ye may not die for the Name of Christ, yet ye must all be willing to do it.

I proceed to make it out, *That all that will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer Persecution.*

First, I would prove this from the Example of our dear Lord. Follow the dear Redeemer from his Manger to his Cross, and see how Jesus suffered Persecution, never Man suffered as Jesus did, never was any of Mankind so ill beloved, never was any more hated than the Lord Jesus Christ, he was acquainted with Grief of all Kinds. The Scribes and Pharisees were always hating him in their Hearts long before they apprehended him, and nailed him to the accursed Tree, they vilified him, he had all Manner of Evil spoken against him falsely.

he was called a Deceiver of the People, he was counted a Mad-man, *he is mad*, say the Scribes and Pharisees, *why bear ye him?* he is *Beelzebub*, he was counted a Conjurer; not only so but he was called a Devil, nay *Beelzebub*, the chief of the Devils; and all the Miracles he wrought were all referred to the Power of Magick, to a Correspondence that the blessed Jesus had with the evil Spirit. And if Jesus Christ that was without Sin was thus used, how can we expect to go out of the World without being used in the same Manner? Some indeed may think that they may escape what Jesus Christ underwent, but says the dear Redeemer, *If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.* And says Christ, *Every one that is a Disciple*, that is, every one that is a true Christian, *must be as his Master*, that is, must be conform to him in his Sufferings, must be like to him in Persecution. And the Apostle tells us, that *Jesus Christ left us an Example that we should follow his Steps.* From whence I infer, That all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, must expect to be as their Master was, and must expect not to go out of the World without suffering Persecution.

As this is plain from the Example, so is equally plain from the Precepts of the

the Lord Jesus Christ. Observe what Christ says, *He turned him to his Disciples and said, If any Man will come after me let him deny himself, take up his Cross and follow me.* And the Lord Jesus Christ tells them, *If ye were of the World, the World would love its own, but because ye are not of the World, but I have chosen you out of the World, therefore the World hateth you.* And in his blessed Sermon upon the Mount, the dear Redeemer after he had been pronouncing People blessed that were poor in Spirit, that were holy Mourners, that were hungering and thirsting after Righteousness; after all these says Jesus Christ, *Blessed are ye when Men revile you, persecute you, and speake all Manner of Evil against you falsely for my Name's Sake.* He speaks of the Blessedness of Persecution, because Nature shrinks at it, therefore it was necessary for Christ to inculcate it. And if there was no other than this Assertion of the Apostle Paul, it is abundantly sufficient to prove it, *Yea, all without exception, that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer Persecution.* Jesus Christ tells us, *he came not to send Peace but a Sword upon the Earth. The Father shall be divided against the Son, and the Son against the Father, the Mother against the Daughter and the Daughter against the Mother, the Mother inlaw against her Daughter.*

Daughter inlaw, and the Daughter inlaw against her Mother inlaw. A great many People have got such a Way of modernizing the Gospel, or rather of explaining away the Gospel of Christ, that they explain this of the first Times of Christianity, that we are not now to expect Persecution as the first Followers of Christ underwent. I own the World is christian, that is they call themselves Christians, but I fear, I am perswaded the World is now lying in the wicked one, the Devil. We call ourselves Christians, but we have got the Devil's Temper in our Hearts, Persecution. I appeal to yourselves whether there are not just now People *that are Lovers of themselves, covetous, Boasters, proud, Blasphemers, disobedient to Parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural Affection, Truce-breakers, false Accusers, incontinent, fierce, Despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, Lovers of Pleasures more than Lovers of God, having a Form of Godliness, but denying the Power thereof.* I appeal to every one whether there are not thousands of such People among us, and these were the Persons that *Timothy* was to expect Persecution from, and while such Persons are subsisting in the World, a godly Man cannot go out of the World without enduring Persecution from them.

It is therefore, my Friends, wrong in some, to explain the Scripture quite away, Because we are Christians, therefore we are not to expect Persecution. Read Church History and see Persecution between Christian and Christian. I shall by and by show you that it appears by the Nature and Reason of Things we must expect to suffer Persecution, but before I come to that,

I shall further prove the Necessity of suffering Persecution by the Example of the Children of God. I have proved it by the Example of Christ and by his Precepts, I shall now prove it from the Example of God's Children. The first godly Man that we read of was *Abel*. Read then further from the Beginning of *Genesis* to the End of the *Revelation*, ye will find a great Cloud of Witnesses. What Opposition did the first Christians undergo? Read the *Acts of the Apostles*, and see how they have been used from Time to Time. Read the 11th Chapter of the *Hebrews*, and see there what a large Catalogue of Sufferers the Apostle gives us Account of. Examine the Experience of Christians now, or if it were possible to go to Heaven and ask the Spirits of Just Men made perfect, I am perswaded they would assert that
before

before they came there they suffered great Persecution.

Further, my dear Friends, I shall endeavour to prove it from the Nature of Things. Ye know very well that after the Fall of *Adam*, when the Lord Jesus Christ was revealed to *Adam*, from that Time there was an irreconcilable Enmity put between the Seed of the Woman and the Seed of the Serpent. Wicked Men, natural Men, Men that are yet in their Blood, that are unconverted, they hate God in their Heart, they have Enmity itself against God; and if they hate God, they must likewise hate those that are going to be like him; the natural Man cannot endure to see another Person better than himself, such is the Pride of his Heart; and because he dares not imitate them, he must persecute them, for if he approved of them, why does he not imitate them; and because he will not imitate them, therefore naturally he breaks out against these Persons, and calls them Enthusiasts or Mad-men, that are turning the World upside down.

Again, This is of Use to try your Graces. Ye may perhaps say, ye love God above all, but I appeal to your own Hearts, how can ye know that ye can give up your Character for God, till God Almighty is pleased to take it away from

from you? How can ye know that ye seek only the Honour that comes from God, till Men speak all Manner of Evil against you? It's easy for Men to say they are Christians, when all Men speak well of them: But will ye cleave to Jesus when all Men speak ill of you. All God's Children will approve of good Men, but unregenerate Men will hate them. How do ye learn to love your Enemies, to do Good to those that hate us, (these are Branches of our holy Religion) how will ye put in practice this Duty, if ye have none to hate you and persecute you, if ye have none that do despitefully use you and persecute you? So that we cannot put in practice some of the most divine Precepts of our holy Religion without we do suffer Persecution, without we have Enemies for the Sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. I might further show that our Faith, our Love to God, our Humility, Patience and Long-suffering toward Men could not be excited, without we were to undergo some Degree of Persecution.

It may therefore perhaps after this be more proper to make Application of this to different Sorts of People. And First, I would speak to you that may be under Conviction, that are willing to list yourselves under the Banner of the Lord Je-

sus Christ: Hear what Christ Jesus says,
*Before ye begin to build, sit down and count
 the Cost,* for there are many People that
*in Time of Temptation and Persecution they
 are immediately offended.* How many Peo-
 ple are there that sometimes would
 pluck out their Eyes, as the *Galatians*
 for *Paul*, and afterwards when he came
 to tell them the Truth, the Apostle *Paul*
 was counted their Enemy for dealing
 faithfully with them. There are many
 stony Ground Hearers that receive the
 Word with Joy, that hear Sermons glad-
 ly; but having no Root in themselves,
 having no true Principle of Grace in their
 Heart, by and by when a trying Time
 comes they become Persecutors of these
 very Ministers, whom they wont so much
 to admire. I speak this therefore by way
 of Caution to you that are willing to
 list yourselves under the Banner of the
 Lord Jesus Christ. Do not do Things
 in a sudden, ask yourselves again and
 again, Day after Day, Night after
 Night, Morning after Morning, Can I
 leave Father and Mother, can I leave
 Brother and Sister, can I part with all
 for the Sake of the Lord Jesus? Can I
 follow a naked Christ? Is there any
 Thing in this World, in Comparison of
 my dear Redeemer? If ye set not out
 with a Renunciation of Self and the
 World,

World, ye will fall off from God, ye will return with the Dog to his Vomit again, and the Sow that was washed to her wallowing in the Mire. Let me advise you, that ye begin not in the Spirit and end in the Flesh. Count the Cost, let it be your Resolution to glorify Christ whether by Life or Death.

I would next address myself to you that are real Christians that do live godly in Christ Jesus. I would speak by way of Incouragement to you, as I have spoken by way of Caution to others. There is not one of you that live godly in Christ Jesus, but I am sure ye must be persecuted for the Sake of the dear Redeemer. What shall I say to you? Do not hang down your Heads, No, *rejoyce and be exceeding glad, great is your Reward in Heaven*; your Opposition, your Persecution is to your Adversaries a Token of Perdition, but to you of Salvation, and that of God. To you it is given not only to believe, but to suffer for the Sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not then forsake Christ because he is cried down, do not deny him because of his Cross, no, offer your Service to Christ. I know that the Blood of the Martyrs was always reckoned the Seed of the Church. And *Tertullian* compares Christians to a mown Field, the more it is

mown the more it grows. *Luther* when persecuted by the Papists used to say, It it was not for Persecution he could never understand the Scriptures. How many Paradoxes are there to a natural Man unless we are persecuted. O what Comfort did the Disciples find, when they all went with one Accord, and lift up their Heart to God! Were I to speak my own Experience, I never have more Comfort than when I am made black by Men. When Jesus Christ is magnified in us, then we can give up all to him; when we can be satisfied with the Testimony of a good Conscience, then we can wrap ourselves in Christ, then Christ Jesus flows in and fills the Soul with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory. Hence it was that the Martyrs went with so much Courage to the Stake, hence some have clapt their Hands in the Flames. Says one, *Ye Papists here is a Miracle, ye speak of Flames, but it is a Bed of Roses.* Hence they sing and triumph in their Sufferings, when the Fire was consuming their Body, it was looked upon as so many fiery Chariots to convey their Souls to Heaven. When *Ignatius* was advised to evade his Sufferings after he was condemned to be thrown to the Beasts; No, says he, *I will strake the Lyon, and desire him to eat me up, for then I begin to be*

a Disciple of Jesus Christ : The nearer he came to the latter End, the more his Heart was quickned. Ye have read Mr. *Rutherford's* Letters, he directs some of them from the Prison. When they are in the dark Dungeon then Christ flows in upon them, then he displays his Power, then is their Soul enlarged with divine Love, so that they have taken greater Pleasure to sit in the Stocks than on a Throne. Holy *Polycarp* when tempted to deny his Master, No, says he, *I have served Jesus Christ for fourscore Years, I always found him a good Master and by the Help of my God I will not deny him.* This Presence of God supported the Martyrs of old when they were sawn asunder, when they wandered in Sheep Skins and Goat Skins, being destitute, afflicted and tormented. The Church flourished most in suffering Times. We have abused God's Mercies we have fallen into Division, because we have no Enemies without. Let me therefore exhort you that are the Followers of Jesus Christ not to be weary and faint in your Minds, look up to Christ, yet a little while and your Trial will be over, yet a little while and wicked Men shall cease from troubling you, and your weary fainting Soul shall receive an everlasting Rest with God; the Devil shall not always tri

triumph over you, wicked Men shall not always be permitted to hold the Rod over your Head ; yet a little while and Jesus will come and roll away your Reproach, yet a little while and Jesus Christ will say, Make Room for them ; yet a little while and he will make you more than Conquerors over all your Enemies, sanctify the Lord God in your Heart. Take Care that ye do not show any irregular Resentment against your Enemies, love them, do Good to them, and beg of God in their behalf, they need your Prayers, they are sick of a dangerous Distemper, instead of being angry with them pity them. O love your Enemies, and imitate your dear Redeemer, who in the Pangs of Death says, *Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.* Take Care your Passion do not rise, keep down that ; be sure to look up to Christ. How did Christ behave under the outmost Indignity, when Judas came to kiss him with his treacherous Mouth, Judas *betrayest thou the Son of Man with a Kiss :* When the Plowers plowed upon his Back and made long their Furrows, how did he behave ? *As a Lamb before his Shearer is dumb, so he opened not his Mouth,* When Peter drew his Sword and cut off Malchus Ear, says *Suffer ye thus far, give me Liberty* just

just to touch his Ear, and then bind me. If this was the Behaviour of your dear Lord, let us take Care that we behave like him. If Christ was reproached, do not think hard that we are reproached also. If Christ was thus dressed up, let us rejoyce that we are conform to him, that we have Fellowship with him in his Sufferings.

I speak to you that are under Sufferings, to you that are persecuted for Christ's Sake: My dear Friends take Care when ye are persecuted, that ye are persecuted only for Righteousness Sake; and beware of persecuting one another, Christians very often persecute one another. We have enew of Enemies, without falling out among ourselves: O then let us take Care that we do not give the Devil, the World and the Flesh Advantage over us. Let us not persecute one another about Things wherein we may differ, but let us love as Brethren, be courteous, and then the Devil's Kingdom will fall. This to you that are now under the Cross.

But what shall I say to you that are of a persecuting Temper. O says Christ, *The outmost Wo be to the World by whom Offence cometh; It must needs be that Offence come, but Wo to them by whom the come.* Such therefore as are of a pe

Spirit, if any such be here, O how dismal and black will ye look when ye come to Judgment. How many People will be found Liars at that Day, every Story that ye have made, Christ will bring out before the whole World. Ye tell Lies and hate his People in your Heart, but when ye come to Judgment, he will bring it out before all the World. *Kiss the Son lest he be angry and ye perish.* O look up to the Lord Jesus Christ for Pardon and Pity. And take *Moses* Choice, rather to suffer Affliction with the People of God, than to enjoy the Pleasures of Sin for a Season.

Ye therefore that are Christians must expect great Persecution, and Ministers in particular. This Advice in the Text was given to *Timothy*, a young Preacher. If Christians in general must expect Persecution, Ministers in particular must expect it. Are there any Ministers of Christ Jesus here, then do not look much for Preferment, do not think to please a Party, do not seek great Things for yourselves, no, no, Persecution is a Minister's best Preferment. When *Paul* was here talking what Persecution he endured, some would tell how they were in Favour with such a Person: But *Paul* says, *What Persecutions I endured.* And therefore Ministers if made useful, the Devil has

has a particular Spite against them. And it is no Wonder we hear him roaring when he sees his Kingdom begin to fall. I know not what others may say, when I first entered to the Ministry God knows I looked for nothing, nor do I now look for any thing but Persecution, Distress and Affliction of all Kinds, for the Sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know very well, if we do preach the Gospel, if we be Instruments under God of bruising the Devil's Head, the Devil will be permitted to bruise our Heel. God only knows when Persecution may come upon your Church or neighbouring Churches, I cannot see that any thing but Persecution will bring us together, we are divided among ourselves, and perhaps that will provoke God to put the common Enemy to drive us together. But however ye and I, if we be Followers of Jesus Christ, we must expect Sufferings before we die, we must learn Obedience by the things we suffer. Therefore my dear Friends, when I am speaking to others, I speak to myself, knowing the Deceitfulness of mine own Heart, least I deny the Lord Jesus Christ, least Christ leave me but for a Moment. It is by Faith, free Grace, distinguishing Grace we stand, therefore when I am preaching to others,

I would at the same Time preach to mine own deceitful Heart. O let us pray one for another, that whatever befall us, tho' we should be called to dy for the dear Redeemer, yet we may not deny him. I am sure he is a loving tender Lord, full of Compassion and Long-suffering, he is worthy of all our Love, worthy of all we can do. *Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive all Honour, Riches and Glory, and Power and Blessing.* O then let us keep close to our Redeemer, and when others are crying him down, crying, *Crucify him, crucify him;* let us say, *Crown him, crown him.* Let us not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, it is the Power of God to Salvation. After to Morrow's Night I may never see you again: When Jesus Christ is holding out the golden Sceptre, and bidding you ask what ye will, will ye put up a short Petition for the poor worthless Creature that is now preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that I may stand in the Day of Trial. O how glad would the Devil be to kick me down. I have been a Backslider from God, I have been the Chief of Sinners, and it is by free Grace that I stand. May the Lord Jesus establish you and me. May the dear Redeemer who
know

knows what is ordained for us, prepare us to go through it. Let us consider that we serve a mighty Conquerour, we are listed under the Banner of the Lord Jesus Christ, who hath the Devil under his Chain. I would speak to you that are Enemies to the Cross of Christ, to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Up and do your worst, dress us up in Bear Skins, speak all Manner of Evil against us, scourge us with your Tongues; The Lord Jesus Christ will make us more than Conquerors through him that loved us, the dear Redeemer shall be magnified in our Weakness. And yet a little while and we shall get above the Reach of you all, yet a little while and our Soul shall fly into *Abraham's Bosom*, and there shall we be at Rest. O how sweet will it be to sit down and look back upon our Sorrows. By and by we shall go to Heaven, by and by Jesus Christ will uphold us by his right Hand and conduct us to Glory. O then be not ashamed of the Cross of Christ. And let none of you that are now in your Blood be afraid to come to Christ because of the Persecution ye must meet with. *He that will save his Life shall lose it, and he that loseth his Life for my Sake shall find it*

it. Come then, poor Sinners, take Christ, renounce the World for Christ in Affection, and give up your Heart to Christ, ye will make a glorious Exchange, Christ hath promised you a glorious Reward; if ye suffer with him, ye shall reign with him for ever.

F I N I S.

Just Publish'd, and Sold by Robert Smith
at the Gilt-bible, Saltmarket, Price
3d. halfpenny.

*Meditations on Death, being a short
Treatise concerning Death and the particular
and general Application of each Head; fit
to be read and considered by all serious Chri-
stians that long and hope to die well. By Mr.
Daniel Campbell, late Minister of the Gos-
pel at Kilmichael in Glasrie, in Argyle-
shire: Author of the Sacramental Medita-
tions, on the Sufferings of Christ.*

